THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) and (b) Consequent to the lapsing of Treaties of Trade and Transit simultaneously on March 23, 1989, Government have invited His Majesty's Government of Nepal for negotiations on a single unified treaty. Pending negotiations, and with a view to ensuring smooth movement of goods between India and Nepal, Government have kept open two transit points on Indo-Nepal border for bilateral and third country trade. In addition, two transit points exclusively for Nepal's trade with Bangladesh and Bhutan have been allowed to continue as heretofore.

Child marriages

1965. SHRI P. N. SUKUL:

SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards reports which appeared in the Hindustan Times dated the 13th March, 1989 captioned 'Child marriage still rampant';

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government thereto; and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government to curb this social evil, particularly, in the context of Government's policy of curbing population growth in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Child Marriage Restraint Act prescribes 18 as the age of marriage for Girls and 21 for boys. The National Perspective Plan for Women 1988-2000 AD emphasises the need to implement the present law effectively. It also suggests creating a social consciousness for delaying marriage at least upto the minimum age mentioned in the above Act. The NPP also recommends that it is necessary to provide alternative options to early marriage and that this can be done by a mix of education and employment opportunities and enforcement of the law.

The Department funds programmes/media campaigns to fight this social evil through the Social Welfare Board and voluntary organisations.

Allocation for implementation of new Education Policy

1966. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what percentage of the national income was being spent annually when the new Education Policy was formulated and by what percentage the allocation was raised for the implementation of the programme under the new Education Policy;

(b) what is the allocation, if any, made for the policy in 1988-89 and the names of the State Government which have failed to raise the resources to meet their part of the commitment; and

(c) in what manner Government think that target of universal elementary education by 1995 is likely to be achieved with the present rate of progress and inadequate funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L.P. SHAHI): (a) The expenditure of Education Departments (Revenue Account) at the Centre and States formed 3.8% of the national income (GDP) in 1985-86. The Plan outlay for education in 1985-86 was Rs. 947.36 crores which increased to Rs. 1961.34 crores in 1988-89. This shows an increase of 107.03% over 1985-86.

(b) The Policy aims at bringing about reforms in the total educational system in the country including through strengthing and modification of the existing programmes wherever necessary. The annual Plan provision for the States is made for all the programmes, both existing and new taken together, with the approval of Planning Commission, depending upon the total resources available with the States. Plan Outlay under Centre and State sectors in 1988-89 is as under:

(Rs. in crores)

Sector	Approved Plan Outlay
Centre . .	835.50
States . .	1125.84

(c) Several schemes aimed at improving elementary education and enrolment and retention of children have been launched after adoption of the National Policy on education, 1986. These include the scheme of Operation Blackboard for improvement of primary schools, the revised scheme of Non-formal Education for out-of school children, the scheme for improvement of Teacher Education etc. As regard financial outlays, NPE—1986 envisages that, 'while the actual requirements will be computed from time to time on the basis of monitoring and review, the outlay on education will be stepped up to the extent essential for policy implementation in the Seventh Plan. It will be ensured that from the Eighth Five Year Plan onwards it will uniformly exceeds to 6 percentage of the National income'.

विश्व टेबल टेनिस चेम्पियनशिप

1967. **सरदार जगजीतसिंह अरोड़ा :**
श्री राम जेठमलानी :

क्या **मानव संसाधन विकास** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि हाल ही में आयोजित विश्व टेबल टेनिस चैम्पियनशिप प्रतियोगिता में भारतीय खिलाड़ियों ने इजराइली खिलाड़ियों के साथ खेलने से इन्कार कर दिया था ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या यह भी सच है कि इस प्रकार का निदेश स्वयं सरकार द्वारा खिलाड़ियों को दिया गया था ;

(ग) यदि हां, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं ;

(घ) क्या यह भी सच है कि विश्व प्रतियोगिता में पहली बार इजराइली और फिलिस्तीनी खिलाड़ियों ने साथ-साथ भाग लिया था ; और

(ङ) यदि हां, तो उस सौहार्द वातावरण को और अधिक विकसित करने के लिए सरकार के द्वारा अपने पूर्व निर्णय में परिवर्तन न किए जाने के क्या कारण हैं ?

मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय में युवा कार्य और खेल तथा महिला और बाल विकास विभागों में राज्य मंत्री **(श्रीमती मारग्रेट अल्वा)** : (क)